THAMES-COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LGOIMA Response – Coastal Adaptation Pathways: Priority Locations, Managed Retreat Pathways, and Implementation Status

Response received July 2026 | Key sources: Coastal Adaptation Pathways (2022) and SMP Business Case (Draft May 2026)

1. Purpose of this Note

This note records the formal material released by Thames-Coromandel District Council in response to a refined LGOIMA request concerning the Coastal Adaptation Pathways (CAPs) adopted in September 2022. It summarises implementation status, locations where managed retreat is on the pathway, decision triggers, funding position, and related observations. Prepared as a public-interest transparency record.

2. Request Scope (Refined)

The refined request sought: (1) implementation status and prioritised actions from the 138 CAPs including pathways that could trigger managed retreat, property acquisition or major works, and decision criteria/triggers; (2) combined river and coastal flood modelling reports for priority locations; (3) cost estimates and LTP funding for coastal adaptation; (4) records of the co-governance Shoreline Management Plan Committee with Pare Hauraki; (5) internal reports or reviews on updates to the CAP framework since 2022.

3. Key Formal Findings

3.1 Priority locations with managed retreat on the pathway

Four locations have managed retreat on the medium- to long-term pathway:

Moanataiari: Managed retreat is the advocated medium-to-long-term strategy. Short-term: maintain/improve embankment and pumping, raise floor levels. Long-term hard defence investigated; would need major pumping upgrades.

Te Puru: Short-term transitional protection (sediment recycling) to buy time. Retreat planning begins at ~0.2 m SLR or after damaging 10% AEP event. Remaining unlikely to be viable at ~0.6 m SLR without new defences. SH25 maintained as lifeline.

Tararu (north and south of Wilson St – consistent strategy): Hard defence investigated but NOT advocated – described as extensive and potentially prohibitively expensive relative to asset value. Advocated strategy: continued sediment recycling + enhancement of existing earth embankments to extend viability into the medium term and potentially 50+ years (depending on SLR rate). Once insufficient, managed retreat. SH25 maintained long-term.

Colville: Extremely vulnerable now. Protect options not supported in community consultation. School relocation trigger at 0.2 m SLR; wider retreat trigger at 0.6 m SLR (king-tide flooding of roads and town centre).

3.2 Protection proposals and funding

Major works proposals identified for Tairua, Moanataiari, Tararu and Te Puru. Soft defences / Coast Care: ~$7 m in 2024–2034 LTP. Business Case states budget for some priority actions is in the LTP, but explicitly records that “the extent and cost of work identified cannot be borne by the district’s ratepayers alone… it will be necessary for the Council to secure external funding if critical projects are to proceed.”

3.3 Retreat readiness

Priority short-term actions include spatial planning for places identified for managed retreat (Moanataiari, Tararu, Te Puru, Colville, Ohuka) and a review of processes and options to support managed retreat, including eligibility criteria. The Business Case notes that managed retreat conversations nationally have proven complex and emotive and that no settled national framework yet exists.

4. Observations Relevant to Transparency and Pattern Analysis

• Formal pathways already place managed retreat on the medium-to-long-term trajectory for multiple Coromandel settlements, including Tararu.

• Hard protection for Tararu was investigated and not advocated on cost and extent grounds relative to asset value.

• Council has recorded that full adaptation costs cannot be met by local ratepayers alone and that external funding is required.

• Preparatory spatial planning and process/eligibility work for managed retreat is a near-term priority while a national framework remains absent.

5. Source Documents

TCDC LGOIMA response (July 2026) and released material including: Coastal Adaptation Pathway documents (Royal HaskoningDHV, Sept 2022) for Moanataiari, Te Puru North, Tararu North/South, Colville, Pepe Stream; Implementation of the Coromandel’s Coastal Adaptation Pathways: A Business Case (Royal HaskoningDHV, Draft 12 May 2026, Ref PA1954); Pepe Stream Catchment Flood Modelling Final Report (Beca, 12 June 2026).

Public-interest transparency record prepared from primary LGOIMA response material and released source documents. July 2026.